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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/643,247	08/15/2003	Etienne Douw Visser	JG0737US (#90578)	3591

7590 03/29/2005

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1940 East 6th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44114-2294

EXAMINER

A, PHI DIEU TRAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/643,247

**Applicant(s)**

VISSER, ETIENNE DOUW

**Examiner**

Phi D A

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/15/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-7, 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thallemer (5743049).

Thallemer discloses a structure comprising at least three structural units, each of said at least three units consisting of three inflatable legs (8) constituting two support legs and an apical leg, each leg having a free end and an inner end, the inner ends of the three legs being joined at a center point, the legs being arranged to define a tetrahedron with the three legs lying on three adjacent edges of the tetrahedron and with adjacent pairs of legs lying in planes of three sides of the tetrahedron, the free ends of the legs defining the fourth side of the tetrahedron, the apical legs of the units are joined to corresponding legs of the other units at a join position (figure 1, per means 34, 49), the three legs of each unit are of the same length (figure 1), two of the legs of the same length and the third leg is of a different length (figure 1, middle structure), the legs are straight, each leg comprises a plastic reinforced by a woven fabric (col 7 lines 51-55), the warp of the fabric is aligned with the tube axis, a connector unit is provided at the free end of at least one of the legs of each element, some of the apical legs are connected to other legs through an intermediate beam, the outer ends of the legs are shaped complementary to permit

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interconnection of the structural elements along the axial angle of the completed structure (inherently so).

3. Claims 1-2, 4, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Leary (6061969).

Leary discloses a structure comprising at least three structural units, each of said at least three units consisting of three inflatable legs (8) constituting two support legs and an apical leg, each leg having a free end and an inner end, the inner ends of the three legs being joined at a center point, the legs being arranged to define a tetrahedron with the three legs lying on three adjacent edges of the tetrahedron and with adjacent pairs of legs lying in planes of three sides of the tetrahedron, the free ends of the legs defining the fourth side of the tetrahedron, the apical legs of the units are joined to corresponding legs of the other units at a join position (figure 1, per welding), the three legs of each unit are of the same length (figure 1), the legs are straight, a connector unit is provided at the free end of at least one of the legs of each element, the apical legs are all joined directly together.

### ***Conclusion***


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art shows different inflatable structural designs.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 703-306-9136, or 571-272-6864 only after April 07, 2005. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 703-308-2486. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phi Dieu Tran A', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Phi Dieu Tran A

3/21/05